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Pole on Coast Is Convicted In an Espionage Conspiracy

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 16 (UPI) — After two days of jury deliberations, Marian Zacharski, a Polish national, was convicted of espionage today for conspiring with an American aerospace engineer to deliver United States military secrets to the Soviet bloc.

The 30-year-old Mr. Zacharski, who was held without bail, could be sentenced to life in prison.

During the 17-day trial in Federal District Court, prosecutors described him as a professional, cunning spy "motivated by loyalty to his country" who recruited an American accomplice "motivated by greed."

Edward Stadum, Mr. Zacharski's attorney, said his client had accepted the verdict with "good humor" and would consider filing an appeal after he appears for sentencing Dec. 14.

The key witness against Mr. Zacharski was William Holden Bell, 61, a former radar system expert at the Hughes Aircraft Company. Mr. Bell pleaded guilty to one count of passing secret documents to foreign agents in exchange for a lesser sentence, and faces a maximum prison term of 10 years.

He 'Needed Money'

Mr. Bell testified that he stole and photographed documents from Hughes Aircraft in suburban El Segundo, Calif., from late in 1978 until April 1981, and turned them over to Mr. Zacharski and other agents in exchange for \$110,000 in cash and gold coins.

Mr. Bell said he delivered the information, which pertained to some of the Hughes company's newest weapons and radar systems, because he "needed money."

The authorities said that Mr. Bell was vulnerable to Mr. Zacharski's suggestion that he sell the documents because he had just divorced and remarried and

wanted \$12,000 for a down payment on a condominium.

Robert Brewer, the prosecutor, said in his closing arguments that Mr. Zacharski "fit the classic mold of a recruitment intelligence officer."

"The defendant was motivated by loyalty to his country and found an American who was motivated by greed," Mr. Brewer told the jury.

Mr. Stadum, who rested his case without calling a witness, had argued that the Government's case was weak because it depended solely on Mr. Bell's testimony.

Rendezvous and Secret Codewords

The prosecution described a cloak-and-dagger conspiracy, complete with rendezvous in European cities with Polish agents, secret codewords, cleverly packaged film and a sophisticated camera.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Zacharski, who was the West Coast representative of the Polish American Machinery Corporation, met in 1977 in their condominium complex and became friends, Mr. Brewer said.

Mr. Bell was under surveillance for about 18 months before agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation confronted him in June. Mr. Bell confessed and agreed to wear a hidden tape recorder in a session with Mr. Zacharski at which the latter talked of paying Mr. Bell for documents concerning the F-15 fighter plane and a missile project, Mr. Brewer said.

Both men were arrested within hours of the meeting.

Asked whether there was a possibility of a prisoner exchange between the Governments of the United States and Poland, Mr. Stadum replied, "I'd like to see that happen."